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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,592	12/05/2003	Gary L. Swoboda	TI-34662	1553
23494 7590 03/12/2007 TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED P O BOX 655474, M/S 3999 DALLAS, TX 75265			EXAMINER RIZK, SAMIR WADIE	
			ART UNIT 2133	PAPER NUMBER

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/729,592	Applicant(s) SWOBODA ET AL.	
	Examiner Sam Rizk	Art Unit 2133	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


GUY LAMARRE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- Response to the applicant's amendment dated 12/19/2006
- Amended claims 1-20 have been submitted for examination
- Amended claims 1-20 have been rejected

Drawings Objections

1. In view of the applicant amended drawings filed on 12/19/2006; all objections to the drawings are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. In view of the applicant-amended claim 12, all objections to the claim rejections under section 35 USC § 101 are withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on 12/19/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
4. The Examiner disagrees with the applicant's argument on page 16, lines (17-27) that (emphasis added):

"In contradistinction, the invention of the Application includes a comparator unit that provides a positive comparison not only for identical addresses, but for addresses having one of a plurality of selected characteristics. Among the plurality of selected characteristics is, for example, the touching requirement.

This requirement is not only discussed in the Specification, but Figs. 5A, 5B and 5C illustrate the requirement. Applicant is unable to find any indication of this type of non-identity requirement in the Swaine reference."

The Examiner notes that Swaine in section [0022] teaches (emphasis added):

"[0022] As an alternative to providing context identifier comparators separately to the address comparators, it is also possible that address comparators can be arranged to be used as context identifier comparators in certain modes of operation. Accordingly, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the apparatus comprises a plurality of said address comparators, at least one of the address comparators including mode change logic to enable that address comparator to be used as said context identifier comparator to generate an output used to condition the output signal from another of said address comparators. Preferably, the mode change logic comprises a multiplexer arranged to receive an address and a context identifier provided within the data received from the processing circuit, and to select the context identifier if the address comparator is to be used as a context identifier comparator."

Therefore, Swaine's invention anticipates the instant invention that includes a comparator unit that provides a positive comparison not only for identical addresses, but for addresses having one of a plurality of selected characteristics by mode change the context identifier to condition the address output comparators for having a plurality of selected characteristics.

5. The Examiner disagrees with the applicant and maintains the rejection of claims (1-20) as in the office action filed on 12/19/2006. All the amendments and arguments have been considered. It is the Examiner's conclusion that claims (1-20) is not patentably distinct or non-obvious over the prior art of record in view of the reference, Swaine. Therefore the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sam Rizk whose telephone number is (571)-272-8191. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on (571)272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Art Unit: 2133

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sam Rizk, MSEE, ABD

Examiner

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3/2/07